

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company

COAST LINES

L. B. JONES,
Auditor
W. G. HUNT,
Assistant Auditor

Los Angeles, Cal., March 20 1924

BC-8812-V

Subject: Bills collectible

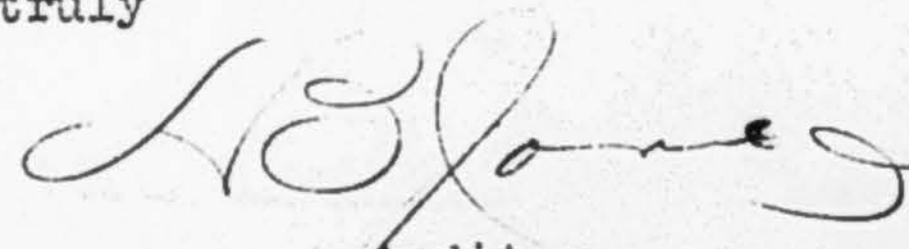
Mr Ed Fletcher
Spreckles Building
San Diego Calif

Dear Sir:

According to my records, remittance has not been received in payment of bill No 8812-V amount \$1136 72 covering installation of automatic flagman which was mailed to you on January 23 1924.

If received kindly favor our Treasurer with check to cover at an early date; if not, please advise and copy will be furnished promptly.

Yours truly


Auditor

220

"GRAND CANYON LINE"

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company

COAST LINES

L. B. JONES,
Auditor
W. G. HUNT,
Assistant Auditor

Los Angeles, Cal., May 26 1924

BC-8812-V

Subject: Bills Collectible.

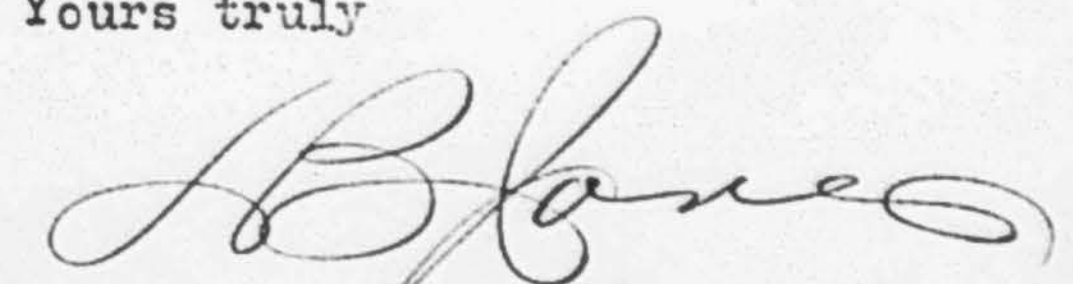
Mr E Fletcher
Spreckels Bldg
San Diego Cal

Dear Sir:

Although I wrote you on March 20 requesting payment of bill audit #8812-V, amount \$1136.72 covering installation of automatic flagman our Treasurer has not yet reported having received your remittance nor have I heard from you as to exception taken to the bill.

As this item is now considerably past due will you kindly furnish me with immediate reply as to when payment will be forthcoming.

Yours truly


Auditor

May 28, 1924.

Mr. L. B. Jones, Auditor,
The A. T. & S. Fe Railway Co.,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. Jones: BC-8812-V

Answering yours of May 26th, re: Bill for \$1136.72, will say I have not put it up to my attorney but I am under the impression that I am under no legal or moral obligation to pay this bill.

You have maintained for many years a railroad crossing just 500 feet south of the present crossing. The change in crossing was made at the request of your officials on account of a better location for the depot, at a point where the grade broke both ways. Either location was satisfactory to us.

The Santa Fe applied for a change of location of crossing from the Railroad Commission. We were not informed before the order was issued or consulted in any manner. Neither did we obligate ourselves to pay this amount, and in justice and equity I see no reason why we should ever be called on to pay.

The order of the Railroad Commission was made without our knowledge or consent and without a chance to be heard. We have put nearly \$3,000 into the levelling of your depot grounds and toward the expense of the depot. We have within twelve months converted a grain field into a real townsite, brought in over a hundred new settlers, between 25 and 30 families, with as many more in sight the next six months. We have rendered valuable service to the Santa Fe Railroad, and I am amazed they should ever think of trying to force us to pay this bill.

Yours very truly,

EF:KIM

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company

COAST LINES

L. B. JONES,
Auditor
W. G. HUNT,
Assistant Auditor

Los Angeles, Cal., June 14 1924

BC 8812-V

Subject: Bills Collectible

Mr Edward Fletcher
Spreckels Building
San Diego Calif

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of May 28th, regarding bill Audit No 8812-V covering cost of installing automatic flagman at Solano Beach, amount \$1 136 72.

I believe the General Manager's letter of April 7th addressed to you fully explains the situation and for convenient reference copy of this letter is attached.

There must be some misunderstanding on your part relative to not having knowledge of this crossing as you will note in the third paragraph of Mr Etter's letter he refers to a request having been received from you under date of November 29 1922 indicating that you desired to make a grade crossing over our line at Solano Beach.

Does not this clear the situation sufficiently so that you can now place in line for prompt payment bill No 8812-V, amount \$1 136 72, covering this work?

Yours truly


Auditor

June 18, 1924.

Mr. L. B. Jones, Auditor,
The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Co.,
Los Angeles, California.

BC 8812-V

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of June 14th, will say I never at any time was asked to pay this expense, neither did I ever agree to pay.

You had been maintaining a railroad crossing for 20 years, 300 ft. to the south of the present crossing. It was not in the right location. It was the Santa Fe officials who decided where the crossing should be as a permanent proposition, and then I was asked to make the application for the change, which I did.

That land would be standing a grain field today if it had not been for my energy in putting my own money, and others' into the development of this property. You now have a new development with 186 new property owners, in acre tracts or larger.

We have given you something like \$3,000 for the depot, the grounds and levelling, and I am simply amazed that the Santa Fe Railroad should ask me to pay for the cost of installing an automatic flagman at Solana Beach.

I have sent a copy of this correspondence to Mr. Engel.

After the officials of the Santa Fe had selected the new crossing site, I punched the Santa Fe up and urged them to make the change themselves. They wrote back it could not be done until the Board of Supervisors of San Diego County approved the change. I immediately got busy with the Supervisors, but at no time did the Board of Supervisors nor the Santa Fe Railroad notify me that I was expected to pay \$1136.72. You never notified us on April 13, 1923 that you would not oppose the installation provided you were relieved from any and all expense in connection therewith. I was not present before the

-2-

Railroad Commission to protect myself against paying any such sum of money. The decision was handed down without my knowledge or consent, and six months later, after the decision is made, I get a bill for the amount. The Santa Fe Railroad can capitalize this amount, I cannot, and under all the circumstances I am surprised that the Santa Fe Railroad would ask me to pay any such sum of money, or any amount, particularly as I did all the grading on both the approaches free of cost to the Santa Fe.

I am sure on second thought you will see the justice of my position.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

*cc. Citter
Engl.*

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 14 Folder: 8

General Correspondence - Jones, L.B.



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